

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 7, which starts with “This application is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. utility applications . . . .” and replace with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of pending U.S. utility applications 10/388,578 (135/001) and 10/389,431 (135/002), both filed March 13, 2003; ~~PCT application designating the U.S. entitled “Genes That Are Up or Down Regulated During Differentiation of Human Embryonic Stem Cells” (135/200pet), filed March 15, 2004; and PCT application designating the U.S. entitled “A Marker System for Characterizing Undifferentiated Human Embryonic Stem Cells” (135/300pet), filed March 15, 2004.~~